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King et al.

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(54) **PORTABLE FOLDED WIPER SYSTEM**

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(22) Filed: **Sep. 23, 1997**

Related U.S. Application Data

(63) Continuation of application No. 08/431,919, filed on Apr. 28, 1995, now abandoned.

(51) **Int. Cl.**[7] **A47K 10/24**
(52) **U.S. Cl.** **221/49**; 221/33; 221/46; 221/64; 221/185; 383/43; 383/66
(58) **Field of Search** 221/33, 49, 64, 221/46, 185; 150/900; 222/541.2; 383/43, 66

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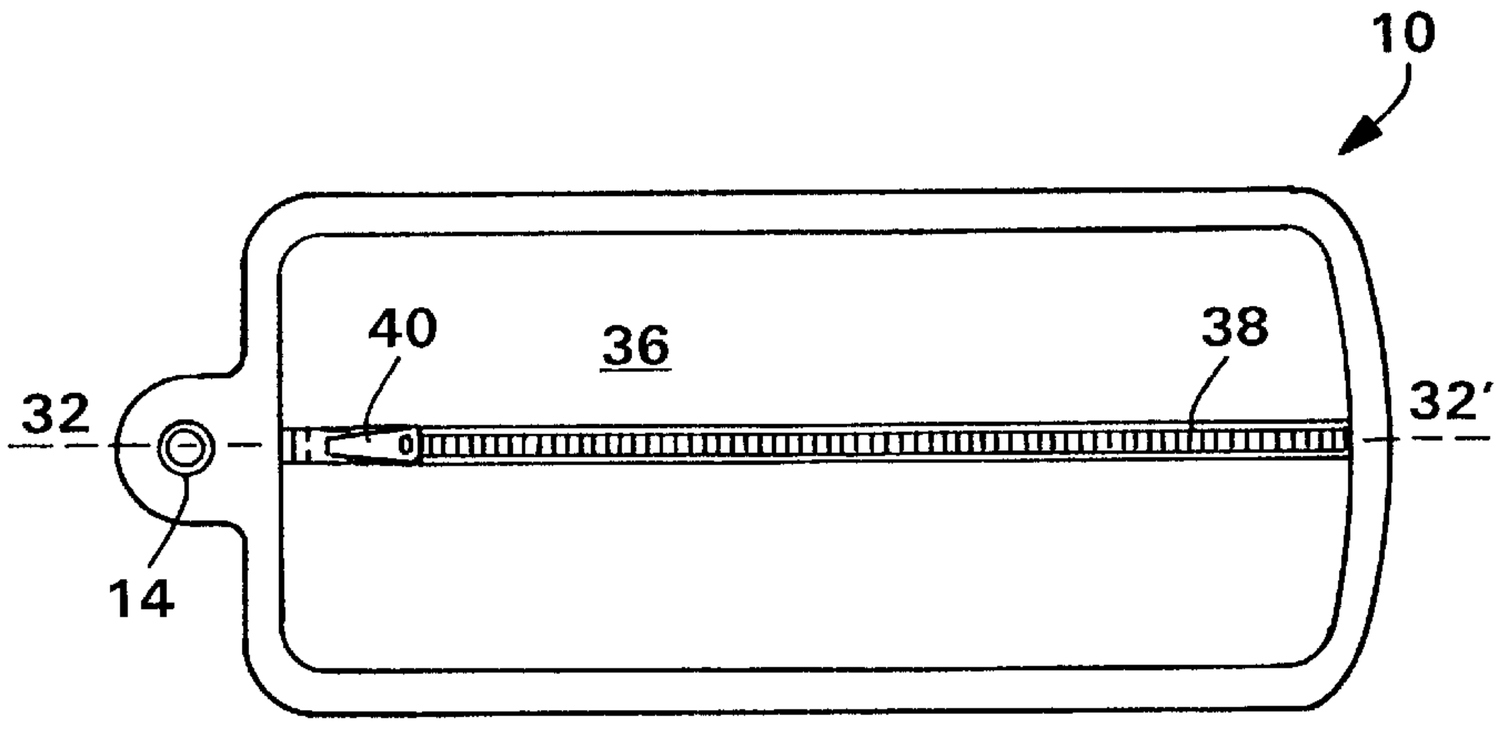
(57) **ABSTRACT**

A portable folded wiper dispensing system for dispensing flexible sheets from a stack of sheets. The system includes a refillable apparatus and a stack of sheets. The refillable apparatus is composed of: 1) a relatively flat, flexible base devoid of dispensing slots, the flexible base being adapted to resiliently fold along a fold axis; and 2) a flexible cover defining an opening aligned in parallel relation to the fold axis of the flexible base such that the flexible cover is attached to said flexible base and is adapted to contain a stack of sheets. The opening defines a dispensing slot through which flexible sheets may be individually dispensed while the flexible base remains unfolded. When the flexible base is folded back along the fold axis, the opening defines a refill gap through which a stack of flexible sheets may be inserted. The stack of sheets may be in the form of a pack of sheets within a plastic wrap provided with an aperture along a major face of the pack which conforms to the dispensing slot of the apparatus.

22 Claims, 7 Drawing Sheets



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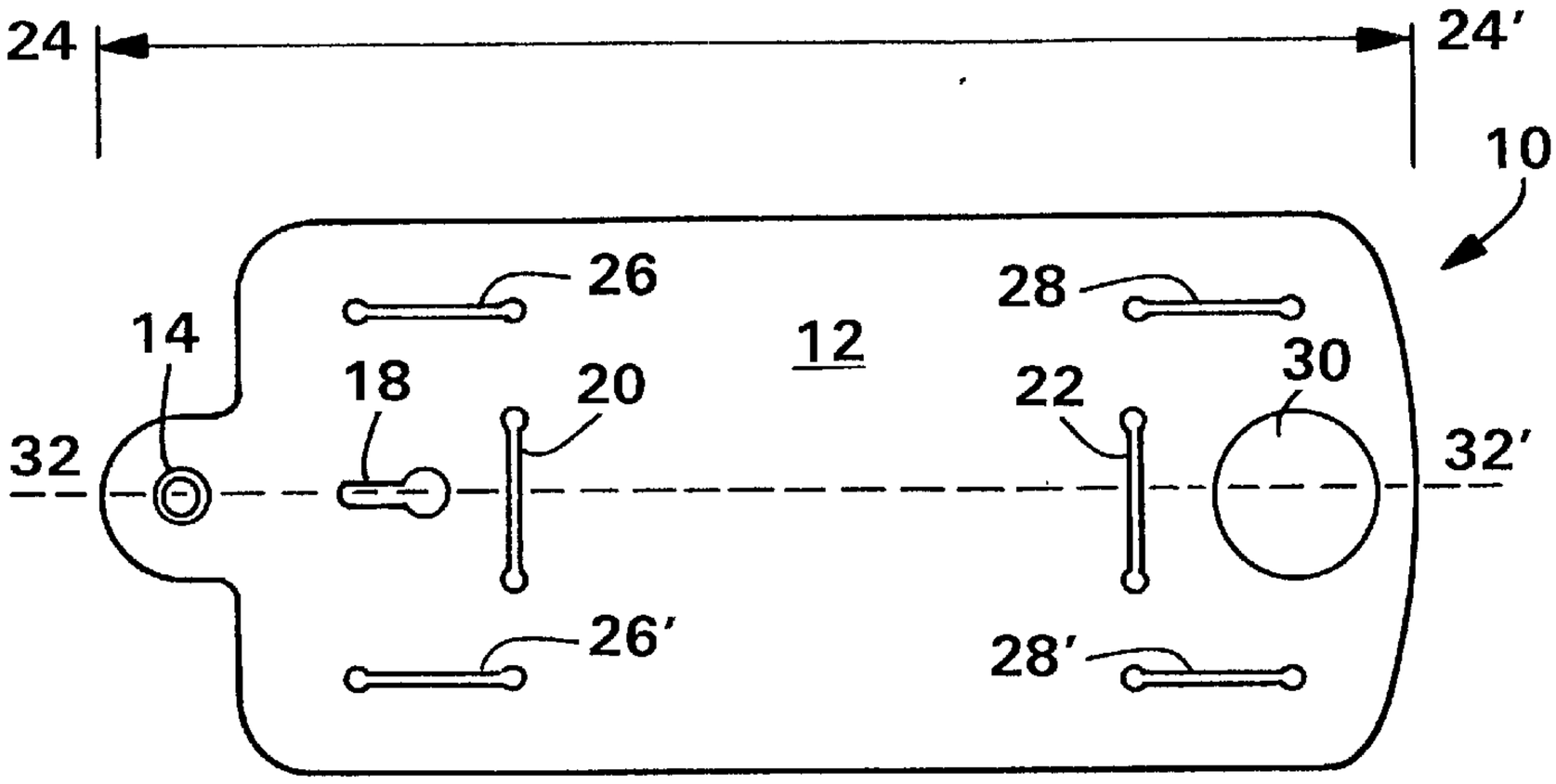

FIG. 1

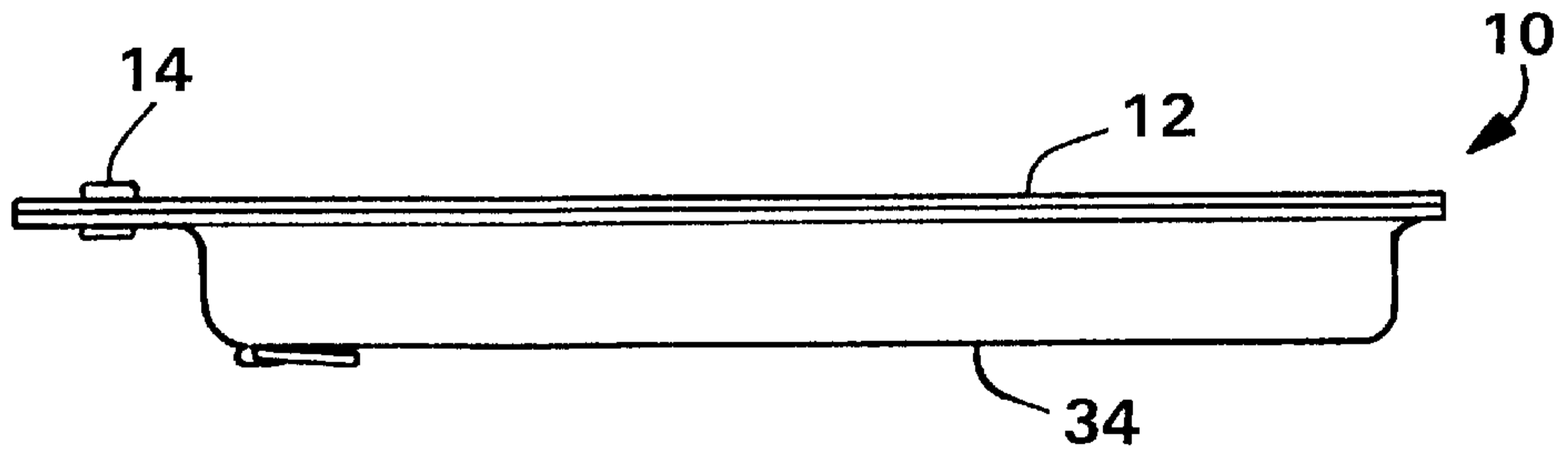

FIG. 2

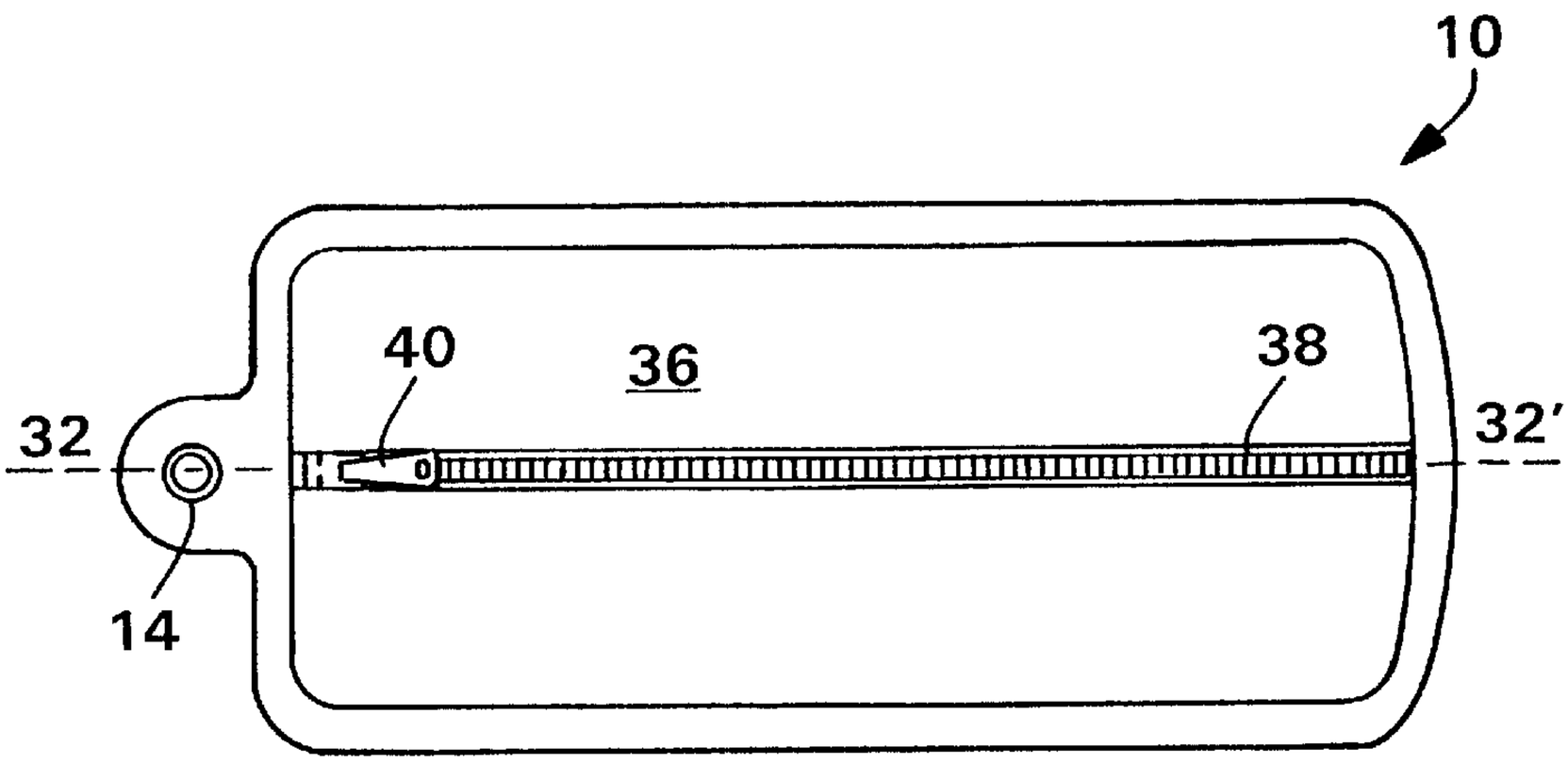

FIG. 3

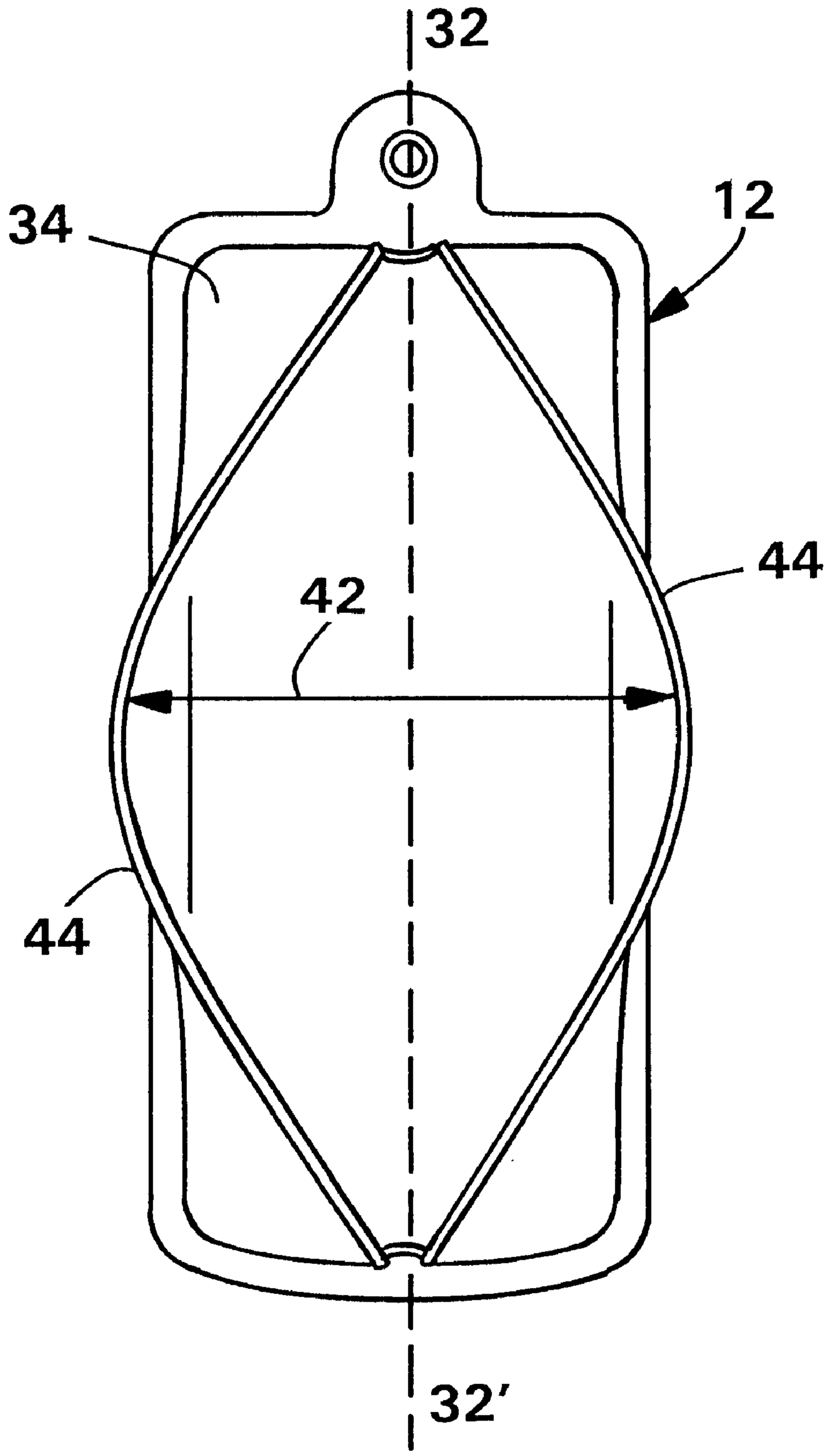

FIG. 4

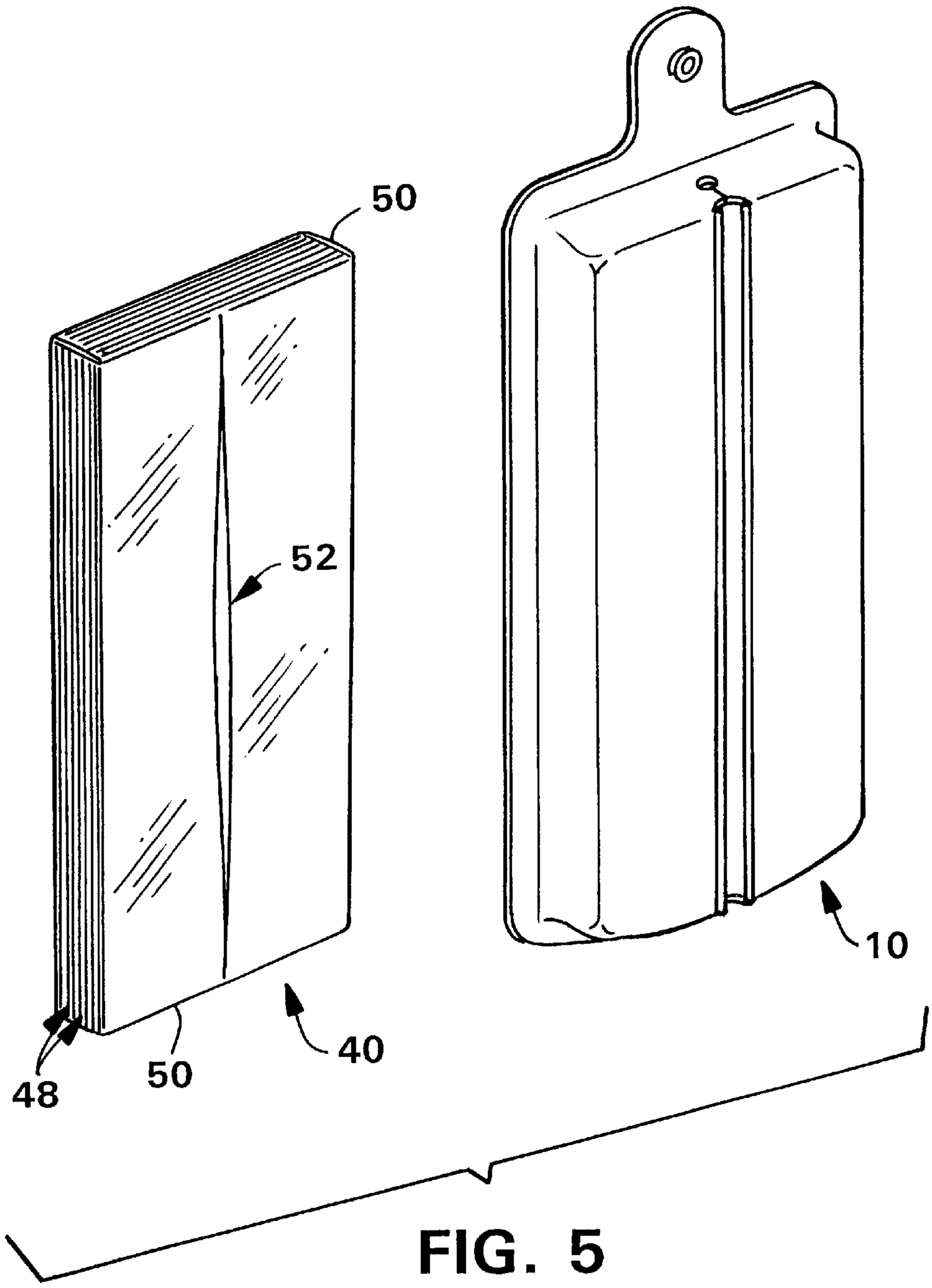

FIG. 5

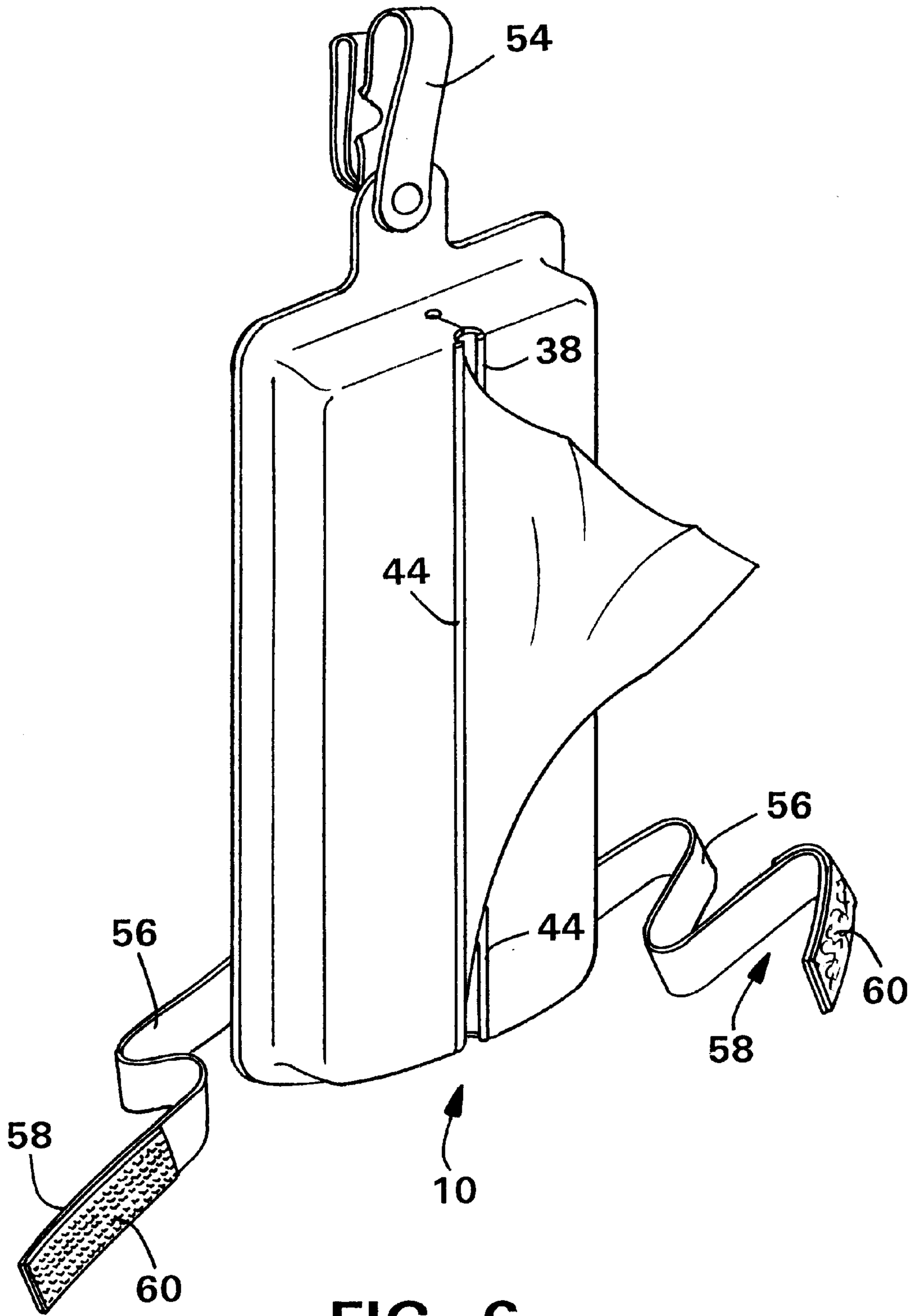

FIG. 6

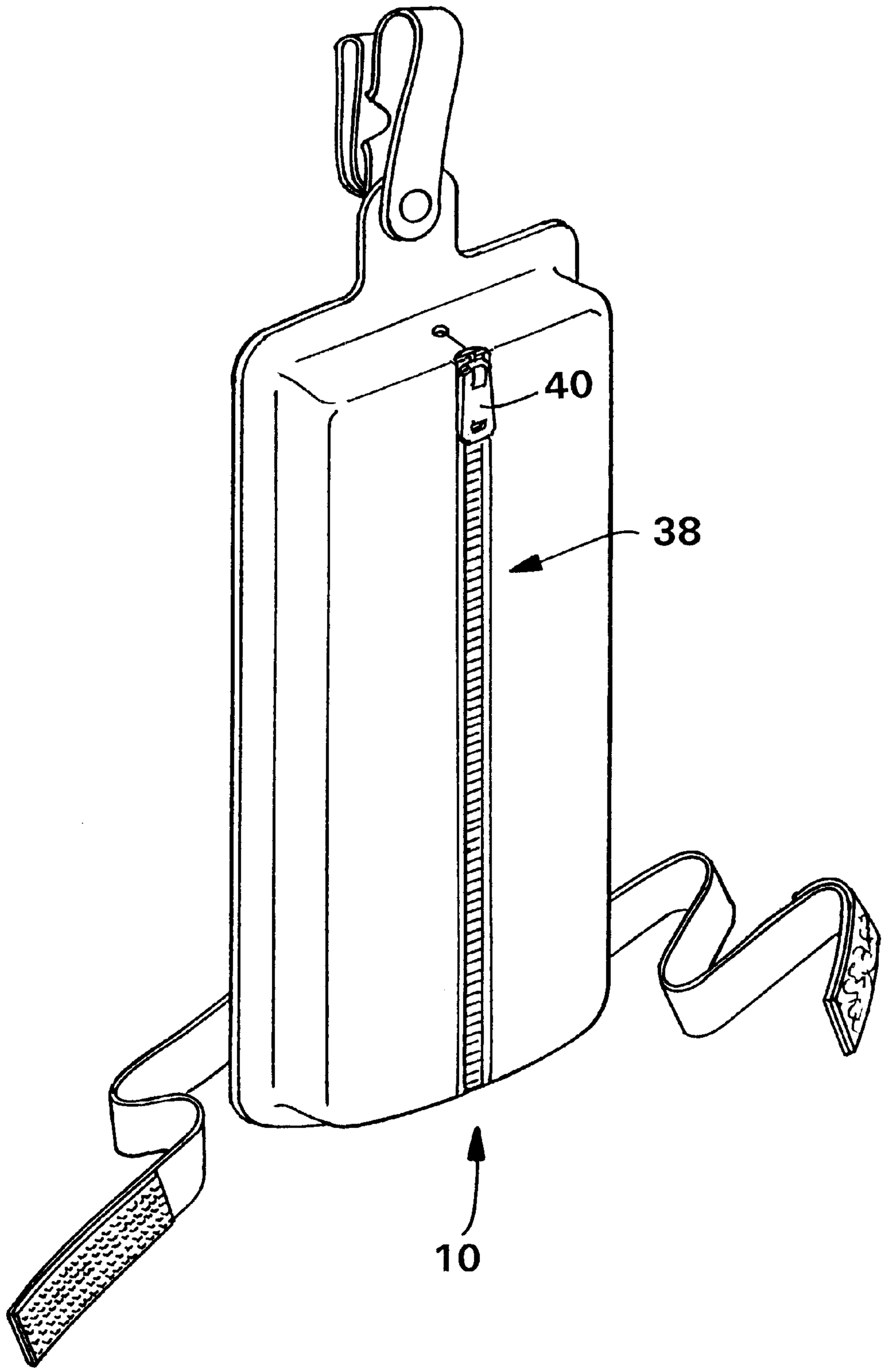

FIG. 7

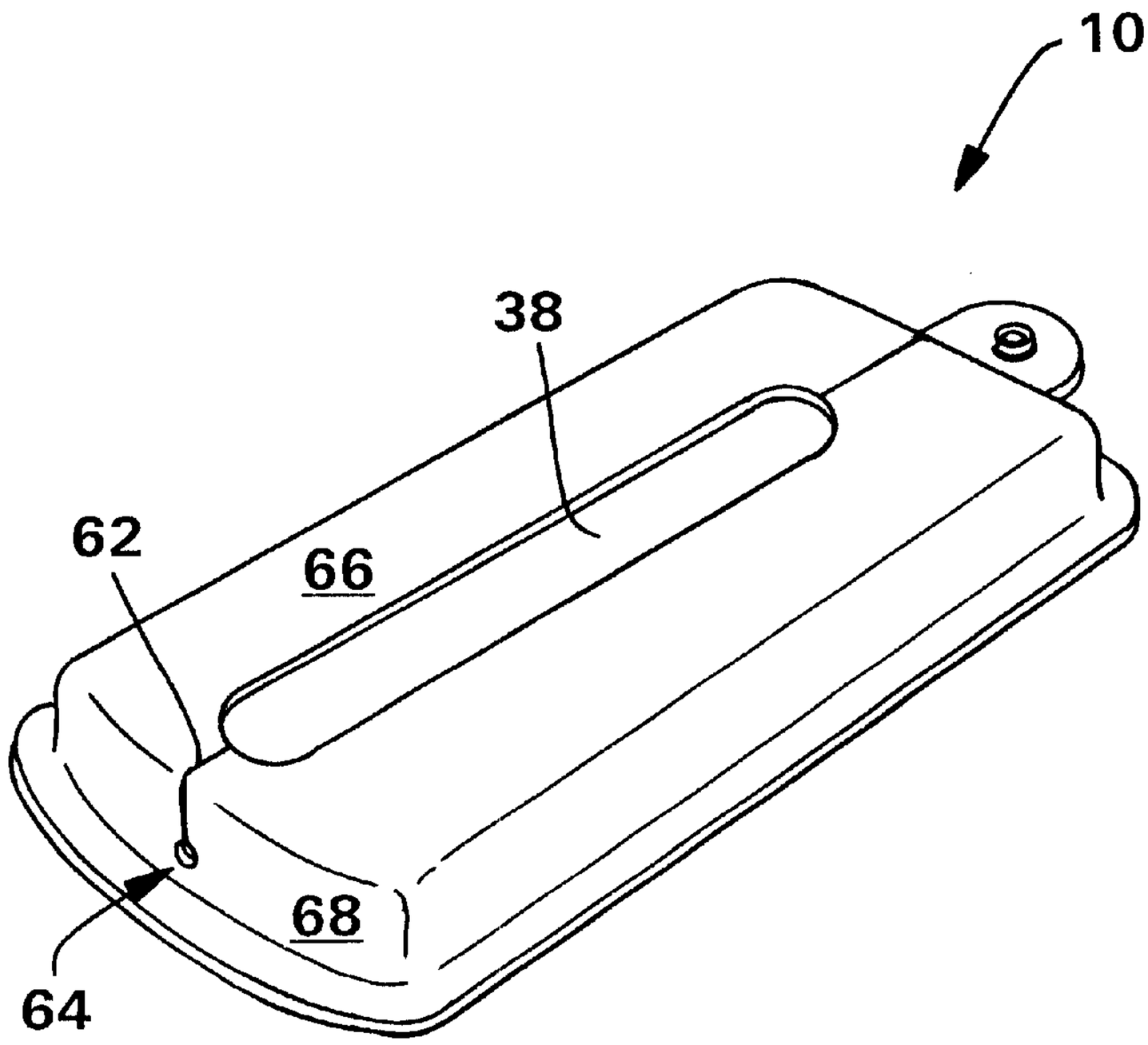

FIG. 8

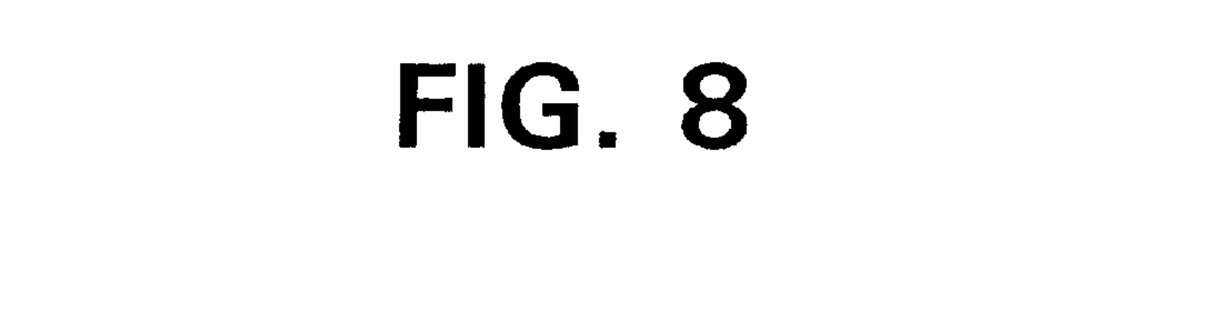

FIG. 9

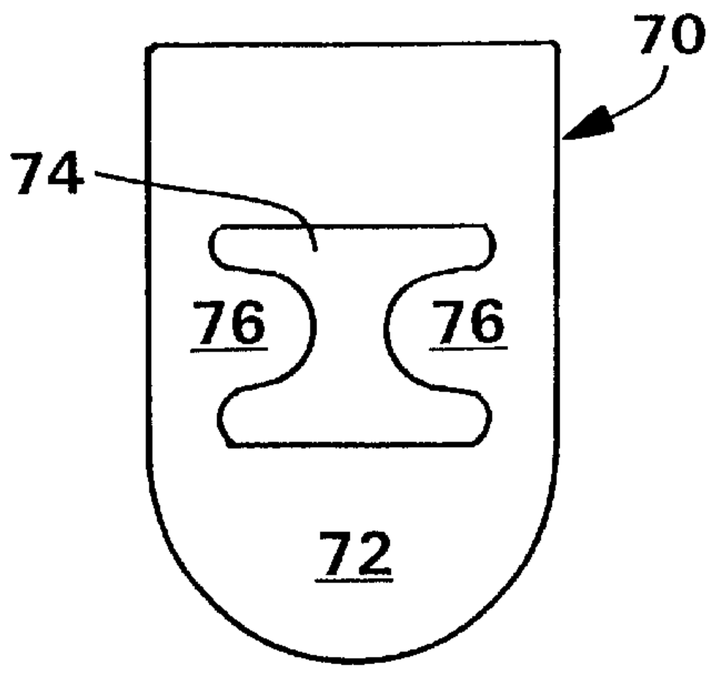

FIG. 10

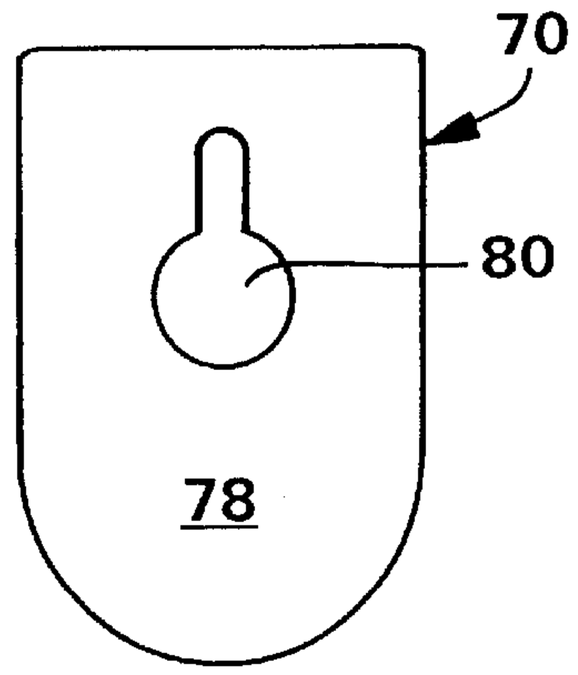

FIG. 11

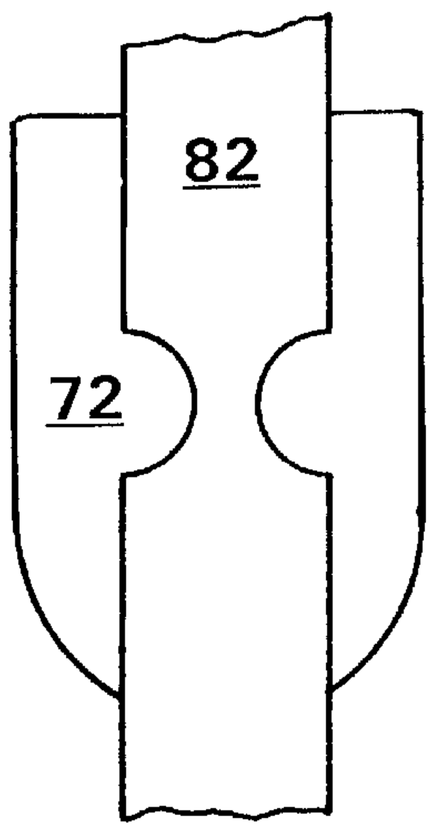

FIG. 12

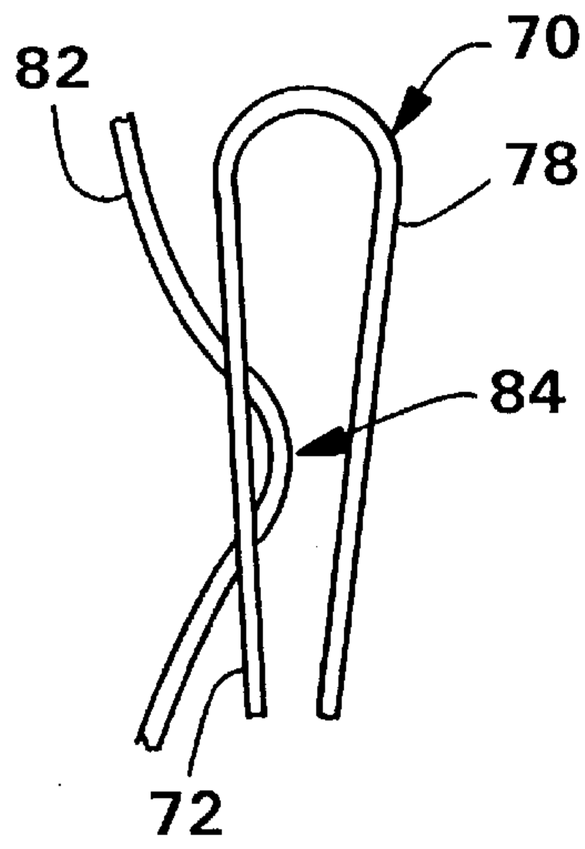

FIG. 13

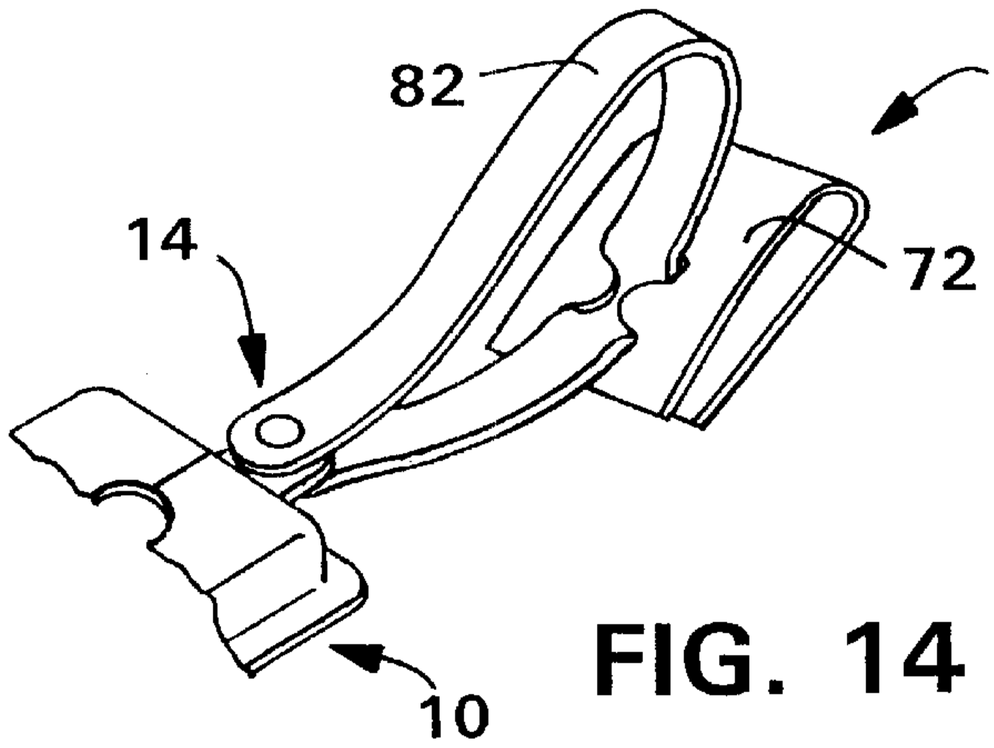

FIG. 14

PORTABLE FOLDED WIPER SYSTEM

This application is a continuation of application Ser. No. 08/431,919 entitled "Portable Folded Wiper System" and filed in the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office on Apr. 28, 1995, now abandoned. This entirety of this application is hereby incorporated by reference.

TECHNICAL FIELD

The present invention relates generally to devices for dispensing flexible sheets from stacks of sheets.

BACKGROUND

Refillable dispensers for dispensing flexible sheets from stacks of sheets are known. These dispensers may suffer from several drawbacks. For example, the dispensers may have separate openings for dispensing and reloading. Such arrangements can require complex flaps, latches, hinges or the like that may add to the cost, complexity and likelihood of failure of the dispenser. Another disadvantage is that many of these dispensers are not conveniently portable. That is, they fail to offer "hands-free" portability and must be hand-carried by the user. Some conventional dispensers have yet another disadvantage in that they offer little or no protection to the flexible sheets from splashes of liquid, dirt, grease or other contaminants.

Accordingly, there is a need for a refillable apparatus for dispensing flexible sheets from stacks of sheets in which the sheets are dispensed and refilled from the same opening. A need exists for such a refillable apparatus for dispensing and refilling flexible sheets from a single opening without complex flaps, latches, hinges or the like. There is also a need for a refillable apparatus for dispensing flexible sheets that is conveniently portable and which may be adapted to offer "hands-free" portability. A need also exists for a refillable apparatus for dispensing flexible sheets from a stack of sheets which protects the stack of sheets from splashes of liquid, dirt, grease or other contaminants. Furthermore, there is a need for a refillable apparatus for dispensing flexible sheets from a stack of sheets which is itself highly conformable, flexible and can be squeezed into limited spaces.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

The present invention addresses the needs described above by providing a refillable apparatus for dispensing flexible sheets from a stack of sheets. The apparatus is composed of: 1) a relatively flat, flexible base devoid of dispensing slots, the flexible base being adapted to resiliently fold along a fold axis; and 2) a flexible cover (i.e., a flexible top) defining an opening aligned in parallel relation to the fold axis of the flexible base, said flexible cover (i.e., flexible top) being attached to said flexible base and adapted to contain a stack of sheets; such that the opening defines a dispensing slot through which flexible sheets may be individually dispensed while the flexible base remains unfolded, and the opening defines a refill gap through which a stack of flexible sheets may be inserted when the flexible base is folded back along the fold axis.

The stack of sheets may be in the form of a pack of sheets within a plastic wrap provided with an aperture along a major face of the pack which conforms to the dispensing slot of the apparatus.

The flexible base and/or the flexible cover may be composed of a variety of resilient materials including, but not limited to foamed polymeric materials. For example, the flexible base may be composed of foamed poly(ethylene-vinyl acetate). The foamed poly(ethylene-vinyl acetate) may have a density ranging from about 160 kg/m^3 to about 240 kg/m^3. For example, the foamed poly(ethylene-vinyl acetate) may have a density of about 200 kg/m^3.

According to an embodiment of the invention, the flexible base may be formed of any suitable resilient material (i.e., resiliently flexible material) such that it may require from about 2 to about 5 pounds force to fold it back along its fold axis so that the opening in the cover (i.e., flexible top) defines a refill gap through which a stack of flexible sheets may be inserted. For example, the flexible base may require from about 3 to about 4 pounds force to fold it back along its fold axis so that the opening in the cover defines a refill gap through which a stack of flexible sheets may be inserted. According to the invention, the fold axis of the flexible base may be a longitudinal fold axis.

The flexible cover (i.e., flexible top) may be composed of two discrete elements arranged to define an opening aligned in parallel relation to the fold axis of the flexible base. The flexible cover (i.e., flexible top) may also be composed of a single piece of material having an aperture which defines an opening aligned in parallel relation to the fold axis of the flexible base. It is contemplated that the flexible base and flexible cover (i.e., flexible top) may also be integral or composed of a single piece of material. In any case, the opening in the flexible cover may be fitted with a closure means. Exemplary closure means for the opening in the flexible cover include, but are not limited to, zippers, clasps, clamps, snap fasteners, hook and loop fasteners, straps, ties, and hooks.

According to the invention, the flexible base may include attachment means. That is, the flexible means may include means to removably attach the apparatus to a surface, bracket, holder, article of clothing or to a portion of the body of a person using the apparatus. Exemplary attachment means include, but are not limited to, belt slots, snap fasteners, hook and loop fasteners, clips, clasps, straps, ties, and hooks.

The present invention encompasses a refillable apparatus for dispensing flexible sheets from a stack of sheets, the apparatus being composed of: 1) a relatively flat, flexible base devoid of dispensing slots, the flexible base being formed of a foamed polymeric material and adapted to resiliently fold along a fold axis; and 2) a flexible cover defining an opening aligned in parallel relation to the fold axis of the flexible base, said flexible cover being formed of a single piece of foamed polymeric material which is attached to said flexible base and adapted to contain a stack of sheets; such that the opening defines a dispensing slot through which flexible sheets may be individually dispensed while the flexible base remains unfolded, and the opening defines a refill gap through which a stack of flexible sheets may be inserted when the flexible base is folded back along the fold axis.

The present invention further encompasses a refillable apparatus for dispensing flexible sheets from a stack of sheets, the apparatus being composed of: 1) a relatively flat, flexible base devoid of dispensing slots, the flexible base being formed of a foamed poly(ethylene-vinyl acetate) material having a density ranging from about 160 kg/m^3 to about 240 kg/m^3 and adapted to resiliently fold along a longitudinal fold axis; and 2) a flexible cover defining an opening aligned in parallel relation to the longitudinal fold axis of the flexible base, the flexible cover being formed of

a single piece of foamed poly(ethylene-vinyl acetate) having a density ranging from about 160 kg/m^3 to about 240 kg/m ^{3} which is attached to said flexible base and adapted to contain a stack of sheets; such that the opening defines a dispensing slot through which flexible sheets may be individually dispensed while the flexible base remains unfolded, and the opening defines a refill gap through which a stack of flexible sheets may be inserted when the flexible base is folded back along the longitudinal fold axis.

Desirably the flexible base and flexible cover are composed of foamed poly(ethylene-vinyl acetate) having a density of about 200 kg/m^3 and which is resiliently flexible such that it may require from about 2 to about 5 pounds force to fold the flexible base back along its fold axis so that the opening in the cover defines a refill gap through which a stack of flexible sheets may be inserted.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

FIG. **1** illustrates a rear view of an exemplary refillable apparatus for dispensing flexible sheets from a stack of sheets.

FIG. **2** illustrates a side view of an exemplary refillable apparatus for dispensing flexible sheets from a stack of sheets.

FIG. **3** illustrates a top view of an exemplary refillable apparatus for dispensing flexible sheets from a stack of sheets.

FIG. **4** illustrates a top view of an exemplary refillable apparatus for dispensing flexible sheets from a stack of sheets.

FIG. **5** illustrates a perspective view of an exemplary refillable apparatus for dispensing flexible sheets from a stack of sheets as well as an exemplary stack of flexible sheets with a plastic wrapper.

FIG. **6** illustrates a perspective view of an exemplary refillable apparatus for dispensing flexible sheets from a stack of sheets.

FIG. **7** illustrates a perspective view of an exemplary refillable apparatus for dispensing flexible sheets from a stack of sheets.

FIG. **8** illustrates a perspective view of an exemplary refillable apparatus for dispensing flexible sheets from a stack of sheets.

FIG. **9** illustrates a detail of an exemplary refillable apparatus shown in FIG. **8**.

FIG. **10** illustrates a detail of an exemplary refillable apparatus.

FIG. **11** illustrates a detail of an exemplary refillable apparatus.

FIG. **12** illustrates a detail of an exemplary refillable apparatus.

FIG. **13** illustrates a detail of an exemplary refillable apparatus.

FIG. **14** illustrates a detail of an exemplary refillable apparatus.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

The present invention is directed to a refillable apparatus for dispensing flexible sheets from a stack of sheets. FIG. **1** illustrates a rear view of an exemplary refillable apparatus **10** for dispensing flexible sheets from a stack of sheets. The rear view depicts a flexible base **12** which is part of the apparatus **10**. As is clear from FIG. **1**, the flexible base **12** may contain openings and/or attachment means but is devoid of dispensing slots. The flexible base **12** may contain or include a variety of attachments means. For example, a female portion of a snap fastener system **14** can be located on a small nub **16** projecting from the flexible base **12**. That portion of a snap faster **14** may be designed to fasten to the corresponding male portion (not shown) which may be attached to a surface, mounted to an article or affixed to an article of clothing or the like.

A keyhole slot **18** can be located on the flexible base **12** and may be adapted to mount the flexible base **12** to screws, nails, pegs hooks or the like projecting from a surface, A first slot **20** and a second slot **22** located along the longest dimension **24–24'** of the flexible base **12** are adapted to receive a belt, strap or the like. In a similar manner a first pair of slots **26** and **26'** and a second pair of slots **28** and **28'** (in perpendicular relation to the first slot **20** and second slot **22**) are adapted to receive a belt, strap or the like. The pairs of slots may be used separately or in combination. As can be readily observed from the orientation of the first and second slots **20** and **22** and the pairs of slots **26**, **26'** and **28**, **28'**, the apparatus **10** may be mounted horizontally or vertically.

A large opening **30** can be located on the flexible base **12** and may be adapted to receive a knob, hook or other projectile in order to mount the apparatus. Each of the attachment means described above may be used alone or in combination if present on the apparatus. It is contemplated that other attachment systems such as, for example, clasps, clips, hook and loop fasteners, semi-permanent adhesives or the like may be used.

According to the invention, the flexible base **12** is adapted to resiliently fold along a fold axis. A variety of fold axis configurations are contemplated. Desirably, the fold axis will run in relative proximity to a line **32–32'** bisecting the center of the longest dimension **24–24'** of the flexible base **12**.

FIG. **2** is a side view of an exemplary apparatus **10**. As can be readily seen, the flexible base **12** is joined to a flexible cover **34** (i.e., a flexible top). The flexible base **12** and flexible cover **34** may be joined by any suitable method. Glues, adhesives, solvent welding, ultrasonic welding, stitching, thermal bonding, staples or the like may be used. Of course, it is not necessary that the base and cover (i.e., top) be fabricated separately. It is contemplated that the apparatus may be formed as a single article in which the base and cover (i.e., top) are integral or formed from a single piece of material. This could be accomplished by injection molding or similar operations. The flexible base **12** and flexible cover **34** may be made utilizing conventional vacuum thermo-forming processes. A plug assist may be employed in such processes to help formation of the molded article. It is contemplated the designs may be embossed into the cover and/or base by patterns placed in the vacuum mold and/or on the plug assist.

FIG. **3** is a top view of an exemplary apparatus **10** showing the flexible cover **34**. The flexible cover **34** may be composed of two discrete elements (not shown). These elements may be arranged to define an opening aligned in parallel relation to the fold axis of the flexible base. The flexible cover may also be composed of a single piece of material as shown in FIG. **3**. The single piece of material is configured to have an opening which defines a dispensing slot **38** aligned in parallel relation to the fold axis of the flexible base **12** (i.e., the line **32–32'** bisecting the center of the longest dimension **24–24'** of the flexible base **12**). FIG. **3** depicts the apparatus **10** with a zipper **40** closing the dispensing slot **38**.

FIG. **4** illustrates a top view of an exemplary refillable apparatus **10** for dispensing flexible sheets from a stack of sheets while the flexible base is folded along its fold axis (i.e., the line **32–32'** bisecting the center of the longest dimension **24–24'** of the flexible base **12**) causing the opening in the flexible cover **34** to convert from a dispensing slot **38** to a much larger refill gap **42**. As can be seen from this view, folding the flexible base **12** back into a upside down U shape causes the edges **44** of the opening to be thrust wide open thereby creating a refill gap **42** large enough for a clip or stack of sheet material to be inserted into the apparatus **10**. Generally speaking, the force needed to fold or bend back the flexible base **12** and open up the flexible cover **34** should be in the range of about 2 to about 5 pounds force (as measured utilizing an Accuforce® Cadet Force Gage available from Ametek Inc., Mansfield & Green Division). Desirably, the force may be in the range of about 3 to about 4 pounds force. While the force may vary depending upon the material used to make the flexible base **12** and/or the flexible cover **34**, the material should require sufficient force for bending so that the apparatus **10** avoids popping open and dropping or otherwise losing sheet material.

Foamed poly(ethylene-vinyl acetate) is an example of a suitable material which may be used in to make the flexible base **12** and/or flexible cover **34**. Relatively thin sheets of that foam material having a density between about 160 kg/m^3 to about 240 kg/m^3 require suitable levels of force as described above to open the apparatus **10**. Moreover, once the flexible base **12** is folded, sheets of the poly(ethylene-vinyl acetate) exert a retractile force (a force from the material once all external opening force is removed) ranging from about 0.5 to about 1.5 pounds force (as measured utilizing an Accuforce® Cadet Force Gage available from Ametek Inc., Mansfield & Green Division) which urges the flexible base **12** back into a relatively flat configuration thereby causing the opening in the flexible cover **34** to close back into a dispensing slot **38**.

Certainly, other materials may be used to form the flexible base and the flexible cover. A wide variety of foamed and un-foamed polymeric materials are contemplated. Desirably, these materials would have densities and opening and closing properties similar to those described above. It is also desirable that the material (e.g., foamed polymeric material) have some stretch and recovery properties. That is, it is thought that if the material is able to stretch slightly (e.g., stretch up to 5 or 10 percent or more) and substantially recover from that stretching, the flexible cover **34** could more readily be converted from a dispensing slot **38** to a refill gap **42** and back again.

Dispensers made of rigid or brittle materials occupy a defined space and cannot be squeezed or conformed to fit into a smaller space or a confined area having different dimensions. The flexible materials provide another advantage in that the dispenser constructed of such material is conformable and can be squeezed to fit into a toolbox or other confined area. Also, flexible materials are unlikely to fracture or break under an impact or if dropped.

FIG. **5** illustrates a perspective view of an exemplary refillable apparatus **10** for dispensing flexible sheets from a stack of sheets as well as an exemplary stack **46** of flexible sheets **48** with a plastic wrapper **50**. As can be seen from FIG. **5**, the stack **46** of flexible sheets **48** is about the same size as (or slightly smaller than) the apparatus **10**. For example, if the stack **46** is a stack of industrial wipes, it may be about 9.5 inches (~24 cm) along its longest dimension, about 4 inches (~11 cm) along its width dimension, and about 1.5 inches (~4 cm) in height. Accordingly, an apparatus for dispensing such a stack of wipers would have about the same or marginally larger dimensions.

The plastic wrapper **50** surrounding the stack **46** of flexible sheets **48** serves to protect the flexible sheets from contamination by incidental splashes of liquid, dust, grease or other materials. It is desirable that the stack **46** of flexible sheets **48** contain an aperture **52** in the plastic wrapper **50** to allow ready access to the flexible sheets **48**. The aperture **52** may be of almost any length. For example, the aperture **52** may run the full length or almost the full length of the stack **46** of flexible sheets **48**. Desirably, the aperture **52** will be about one-half the length of the stack **46** of flexible sheets **48** and will be located at the center of the stack so that the ends of the aperture **52** are separated from each end of the stack **46** by a distance which is approximately a quarter of the length of the stack.

When the stack **46** of flexible sheets is inserted into the apparatus **10**, both the apparatus and the plastic wrapper help prevent undesired contamination. Accordingly, it is also desirable that the stack **46** contain flexible sheets **48** (e.g., wipers or the like) which are not interfolded. That is, it is desired in some embodiments of the invention that removal of one sheet should avoid extracting a portion of the next sheet outside the apparatus **10** as is common in many conventional dispenser of interfolded tissues. Keeping all the sheet material inside the dispenser by using non-interfolded stacks of sheets (e.g., Z-folded sheets, C-folded sheets or the like) is desirable because it helps to avoid contamination of the sheets by incidental splashes of liquid, dirt, grease or the like. Such an arrangement of non-interfolded stacks of sheets is practical in the apparatus **10** of the present invention because of the relative flexibility of the flexible cover **34** which permits easy access to the sheets. That is, the flexibility of the cover permits easy access into the dispensing slot and even allows relatively narrow dispensing slots to be employed while permitting practical dispensing. Narrow dispensing slots are desirable because they help prevent contamination of the wipes. Of course, the present invention contemplates the use of interfolded wiper in the apparatus and/or relatively wide dispensing slots.

FIG. **6** illustrates a top perspective view of an exemplary refillable apparatus **10**. As can be seen from the illustration, the apparatus **10** has attachment means in the form of a clip **54** and in the form of a band **56** (e.g., a strap). The ends **58** of the band **56** may be joined by any suitable method such as, for example, buckles, clips, snaps, hook and loop fasteners or the like. Desirably, the ends **58** of the band **56** are fitted with snaps or snap fasteners (e.g., poppers).

The clip **54** may be used to attach the apparatus **10** to an article of clothing such as the top of trousers, to a belt, to a belt loop or the like. The band **56** (e.g, strap) may be used to hold the end the apparatus **10** opposite the clip **54** against a portion of the body. For example, the clip **54** may be used to hold the top of the apparatus **10** near the waist and the band **56** may be used to hold the other end against a limb (e.g., a leg).

The band **56** may be used with or without the clip **54**. For example, the band and any suitable attachment means fitted at the ends of the band could be looped around a toolbox handle, trolley handle or the like.

FIG. **6** also depicts the edges **44** of the cover **34** defining a dispensing slot **38**. A single sheet of flexible material is shown protruding through the dispensing slot **38**. In this example, no closure means are connected to the edges **44** of the cover **34**. Generally speaking, if an appropriate material is selected for the flexible cover **34**, the flexible cover **34** can

have adequate levels of flexibility and retractile force which would alleviate the need for closure means on the dispensing slot **38**.

FIG. **7** illustrates a perspective view of an exemplary refillable apparatus **10** for dispensing flexible sheets from a stack of sheets. The apparatus **10** is identical to that shown in FIG. **6** except that the dispensing slot **38** is fitted with a zipper **40**.

FIG. **8** illustrates a perspective view of an exemplary refillable apparatus **10** for dispensing flexible sheets from a stack of sheets. This particular embodiment of the apparatus contains a cut **62** or slice which connect a small hole **64** to the dispensing slot **38**. The cut **62** aids the flexure and ease of opening of the cover **34**. More specifically, the cut **62** and small hole **64** are particularly useful if the dispensing slot **38** is located only on the face **66** of the cover **34** and not the side portion **68**. The small hole **64** serves to dissipate stresses and that may build up at the end of the cut **62**. A cut **62** and small hole **64** are located at each end of the dispensing slot. FIG. **9** is an illustration of a side or head-on view of the side portion **68** showing the cut **62** and the small hole **64** shown in FIG. **8**.

FIG. **10** illustrates a detail of a clip **70** from an exemplary refillable apparatus. In particular, FIG. **10** shows the front element **72** of the clip **70**. The front element **72** defines an opening **74** with two protrusions **76** which serves as a buckle-like fitting for a band or strap.

FIG. **11** illustrates the rear element **78** of the clip **70**. The rear element **78** defines an opening **80** in the shape of a keyhole which can be used to hook the clip onto a protrusions such as, for example, a nail, screw, peg or the like. The rear element **78** is separate but connected to the front element **72**. Generally speaking, the clip **70** may be formed from a single piece of rigid material by folding the material over to provide a front element **72** and a rear element **78** that are connected at the fold but separated by a gap.

FIG. **12** shows the front element **72** serving as a buckle-like fitting for a band **82**. The band **82** fits into the opening **74** underneath the two protrusions **76** and back out of the opening **74**. FIG. **13** shows a side view of the band **82** as it fits into the front element **72**. The portion of the band between the front element **72** and the rear element **78**, that is, the interior band portion **84**, enhances the effectiveness of the clip **70** by serving as an additional catch for holding onto articles. This is particularly true when the band **82** is formed of a leather-like material or a foamed polymeric material.

FIG. **14** is an illustration of how the clip **70** and the band **82** can be connected to the apparatus **10** by snap fasteners **14**. As can be seen, the band **82** passes through the front element **72** of the clip.

The foregoing description relates to several embodiments of the present invention pertaining to a refillable apparatus for dispensing flexible sheets from a stack of sheets, and modifications or alterations may be made without departing from the spirit and scope of the invention as defined in the following claims.

What is claimed is:

1. A portable folded wiper system for dispensing flexible sheets from a stack of sheets, the system comprising a refillable apparatus and a stack of sheets, the refillable apparatus comprising:

a relatively flat, flexible base devoid of dispensing slots, said flexible base being formed of a foamed polymeric material and adapted to resiliently fold along a fold axis, the fold axis of the flexible base being a longitudinal fold axis; and

a flexible cover defining an opening aligned in parallel relation to the fold axis of the flexible base, said flexible cover being formed of a foamed polymeric material and attached to said flexible base and adapted to contain a stack of sheets;

said opening defining a dispensing slot through which flexible sheets may be individually dispensed while said flexible base remains unfolded, and said opening defining a refill gap through which a stack of flexible sheets may be inserted when said flexible base is folded back along the fold axis,

wherein the flexible base folds back along the longitudinal fold axis upon application of a predetermined folding force and resiliently returns to a relatively flat configuration upon removal of said folding force.

2. The system of claim **1**, wherein the stack of sheets are in the form of a pack of sheets within a plastic wrap provided with an aperture along a major face of the pack which conforms to the dispensing slot of the apparatus.

3. The system of claim **1**, wherein the foamed polymeric material is foamed poly(ethylene-vinyl acetate) having a density ranging from about 160 kg/m^3 to about 240 kg/m^3.

4. The system of claim **3**, wherein the flexible base is composed of foamed poly(ethylene-vinyl acetate) having a density ranging from about 200 kg/m^3.

5. The system of claim **1**, wherein the flexible base includes attachment means.

6. The system of claim **5**, wherein the attachment means is selected from belt slots, snap fasteners, hook and loop fasteners, clips, clasps, straps, ties, and hooks.

7. The system of claim **1**, wherein the cover is composed of two discrete elements arranged to define an opening aligned in parallel relation to the fold axis of the flexible base.

8. The system of claim **1**, wherein the cover is composed of a single piece of material having an aperture which defines an opening aligned in parallel relation to the fold axis of the flexible base.

9. The system of claim **1**, wherein the opening in the flexible cover is fitted with a closure means selected from zippers, clasps, clamps, snap fasteners, hook and loop fasteners, straps, ties, and hooks.

10. A portable folded wiper system for dispensing flexible sheets from a stack of sheets, the system comprising a refillable apparatus and a stack of sheets, the refillable apparatus comprising:

a relatively flat, flexible base devoid of dispensing slots, said flexible base being formed of a foamed polymeric material and adapted to resiliently fold along a fold axis, the fold axis of the flexible base being a longitudinal fold axis; and

a flexible cover defining an opening aligned in parallel relation to the fold axis of the flexible base, said flexible cover being formed of a single piece of foamed polymeric material which is attached to said flexible base and adapted to contain a stack of sheets;

said opening defining a dispensing slot through which flexible sheets may be individually dispensed while said flexible base remains unfolded, and said opening defining a refill gap through which a stack of flexible sheets may be inserted when said flexible base is folded back along the fold axis,

wherein the flexible base requires from about 2 to about 5 pounds force to fold it back along its longitudinal axis so that the opening in the cover defines a refill gap through which a stack of flexible sheets may be inserted.

11. The system of claim 10, wherein the stack of sheets are in the form of a pack of sheets within a plastic wrap provided with an aperture along a major face of the pack which conforms to the dispensing slot of the apparatus.

12. The system of claim 10, wherein the foamed polymeric material is composed of foamed poly(ethylene-vinyl acetate) having a density ranging from about 160 kg/m^3 to about 240 kg/^{3}.

13. The system of claim 12, wherein the foamed polymeric material is composed of foamed poly(ethylene-vinyl acetate) having a density ranging from about 200 kg/m^3.

14. The system of claim 10, wherein the flexible base includes attachment means.

15. The system of claim 10, wherein the opening in the flexible cover is fitted with a closure means.

16. A portable folded wiper system for dispensing flexible sheets from a stack of sheets, the system comprising a refillable apparatus and a stack of sheets, the refillable apparatus comprising:

a relatively flat, flexible base devoid of dispensing slots, said flexible base being formed of a foamed poly (ethylene-vinyl acetate) material having a density ranging from about 160 kg/m^3 to about 240 kg/m^3 and adapted to resiliently fold along a longitudinal fold axis; and

a flexible cover defining an opening aligned in parallel relation to the longitudinal fold axis of the flexible base, said flexible cover being formed of a single piece of foamed poly(ethylene-vinyl acetate) having a density ranging from about 160 kg/m^3 to about 240 kg/m^3 which is attached to said flexible base and adapted to contain a stack of sheets;

said opening defining a dispensing slot through which flexible sheets may be individually dispensed while said flexible base remains unfolded, and said opening defining a refill gap through which a stack of flexible sheets may be inserted when said flexible base is folded back along the longitudinal fold axis,

wherein the flexible base requires from about 2 to about 5 pounds force to fold it back along its longitudinal axis so that the opening in the cover defines a refill gap through which a stack of flexible sheets may be inserted.

17. The system of claim 16, wherein the stack of sheets are in the form of a pack of sheets within a plastic wrap provided with an aperture along a major face of the pack which conforms to the dispensing slot of the apparatus.

18. The system of claim 16, wherein the foamed poly (ethylene-vinyl acetate) has a density of about 200 kg/m^3.

19. The system of claim 16, wherein the flexible base includes attachment means.

20. The system of claim 16, wherein the opening in the flexible cover is fitted with a closure means.

21. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the flexible base requires from about 2 to about 5 pounds force to fold it back along its longitudinal axis so that the opening in the cover defines a refill gap through which a stack of flexible sheets may be inserted.

22. The system of claim 16, wherein the flexible base requires from about 3 to about 4 pounds force to fold it back along its longitudinal axis so that the opening in the cover defines a refill gap through which a stack of flexible sheets may be inserted.

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